

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01

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R 012305Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0947

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE GENERAL RIOS MONTT GETS ENTHUSIAS-
TIC AIRPORT RECEPTION

REF: GUATEMALA 2568

1. BETWEEN TWO AND THREE THOUSAND ENTHUSIASTIC SYMPATHIZERS GREETED GENERAL EFRAIN RIOS MONTT AT AURORA AIRPORT SEPT. 29. RIOS ARRIVED VIA PRIVATE PLANE ACCOMPANIED BY DCG SECRETARY-GENERAL DANILO BARILLAS, JULIO SEGURA TRUJILLO OF FURD, AND PR DISSIDENT LEADER ALBERTO FUENTES MOHR. THE POLITICIANS HAD MET WITH RIOS IN SAN SALVADOR THE NIGHT BEFORE, FOLLOWING THE GENERAL'S ARRIVAL FROM WASHINGTON. AMONG THE WELCOMING PARTY AT AURORA WERE RENE DE LEON SCHLOTTER, DCG DISSIDENT CARLOS GEHLERT MATA, SEVERAL PR DEPUTIES, MAURO MONTERROSO OF THE SELF-STYLED "PID REBELS," AND MANY FURD LEADERS, MINUS COLOM AND PONCIANO.

2. RIOS PRESIDED OVER THIS FIRST FORMAL CAMPAIGN SESSION SATURDAY AFTERNOON. "GUATEMALA ESTOY PRESENTE" (GUATEMALA, I AM HERE, READY FOR DUTY") RIOS BEGAN HIS ADDRESS, "CONSCIOUS OF MY CIVIC DUTY TO THE CALL OF THE PEOPLE." AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT EVENING, RIOS STATED THAT THE PROGRAM OF THE DCG PARTY WOULD SERVE AS THE BASE

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FOR HIS CAMPAIGN PLATFORM BUT HE WELCOMED SUGGESTIONS

FROM OTHER OPPOSITION GROUPS. RIOS STRONGLY DENIED THAT HE HAD MADE ANY PACT WITH THE ARMY. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT SANSIRISAY (REFTEL) THE GENERAL EMPHASIZED THAT HE HAD ARRIVED AT THE SCENE OF THE ENCOUNTER THE DAY AFTER IT OCCURRED AND HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN PREVENTING FURTHER BLOODSHED. RIOS COMMENTED THAT THERE WERE NO "IDEOLOGICAL GUERRILLAS" IN GUATEMALA BUT ONLY PEOPLE WHO RESORTED TO CRIME BECAUSE OF ECONOMIC MISERY.

3. COMMEND: THE AIRPORT TURNOUT WAS LARGER THAN HAD BEEN PREDICTED BY MANY POLITICIANS AND REVEALED A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF GENUINE ENTHUSIASM, AND RIOS' SPEECH DEMONSTRATED A FLAIR FOR POLITICAL ORATORY.

DECONTROL 1 JANUARY 1975.
DREYFUSS

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